

## Transcript for Meet David Gwynn

<http://iminervapodcast.blogspot.com/2010/06/meet-david-gwynn.html>

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IM: Hi, I'm Irma Minerva at the University Libraries at UNCG, and this is your podcast of the week.

BF: Today we are interviewing the newly hired David Gwynn, the digital projects coordinator at UNCG Libraries. So David, how long have you been working here at UNCG libraries and what exactly is it that you do?

DG: Well I started out as a student worker in 2008 working in the digital projects lab. I was hired full time in fall of 2009 as the Civil Rights Greensboro project manager, that was my official title. Starting, oddly enough, tomorrow I'm officially now the digital projects coordinator here. And what that means essentially I coordinate and I manage to a large degree. I coordinate with other departments, specifically University Archives and Special Collections, a lot of work with Cataloging, but other departments as well, to put digital versions of material online. It becomes searchable and a little more easily discoverable.

Where were you before you came to UNCG and what other types of jobs have you had in the past?

DG: For most of my career I have been doing two things at once. I have been working sort of adjacent to retail, I worked for FedEx Kinkos for about sixteen years, at the store level and then more in a kind of administrative, kind of back office management level. That was where I learned a lot of what I know about technology, about digital imaging, and document creation. During that time I was also working as a freelance web designer, and then ultimately started doing that full time a few years ago as well. I worked with book publishers, TV stations, non-profit organizations.

BK: So what's your favorite thing about the new job here, David?

DG: What I really like about this job is first and foremost for me it's all about the stuff, I like old stuff. It's about finding that interesting thing or looking at something and saying "this would be really cool if we could put it online and make it available to people so that anyone can find it." I like particularly working in a university environment, it's sort of where I've always felt at home, and what I've always wanted to do. I like working with a lot of great people in a library who are informed and who are really excited about what they do. And for the first time in my life I actually like coming to work in the morning, which is kind of a cool thing to be able to say.

JM: What are your thoughts on the future of libraries and digitization?

DG: Future of libraries, let's hold off on that one because that's a little bit of a harder question. Future of digitization, I've got some very strong opinions on. It's going to have to become a lot less labor intensive in the future. That's an absolute given particularly since budgets are not likely to get larger in the coming years because A, there is less money, B, there is a point where people are going to become less excited about digitization, it's not going to be the hot new thing. So it's going to have to become less labor intensive and that's going to involve a couple of things. First thing, to use the archival term, it's

going to be all about the MPLP, more product, less process. And the way I see that applying to digitization is that specifically a big thing we're going to need a lot of the technology to do some of the work for you, or you're never going to get anything done. And striking a balance between how much time you want to spend describing the materials and how quickly you actually want to be able to get stuff online and available, because one of the two is probably going to have to be sacrificed. You can't sacrifice quality and accuracy, but you can sacrifice quantity as far as describing materials and that's where most of the labor is in digitization.

CC: And what do you like to do outside of work?

DG: There is outside of work?

BK: So they say

DG: I like to travel a lot when I can, I haven't had much chance lately. I've been back and forth across the country several times, I like the big old fashioned cross country road trip. I like to take pictures, I specifically like to take pictures of buildings and cities and streetscapes, that's what I'm interested in. And you know, as far as travelling, that's where I like to visit cities.

BK: What's your current favorite city, besides Greensboro?

DG: I'm a big fan of Pittsburg [laughter] because it's just kind of a really neat place and the thing that's really great about it is that nobody knows what a neat place it is, so the people that would keep it from being a neat place generally are staying away from it.

BF: Good point

DG: It's a big city that became a small city because half the population has moved out in the last thirty years as the steel industry collapsed. But in the process they realized that medicine and education was their future and it's actually a strangely healthy city, it's sort of like a big overgrown college town.

Is there anything else you'd like to add, want people to know about yourself?

DG: I'd like people to come and see me.

BK: Sometime

DG: I don't think a lot of people know that we're up there and exactly what we do.

Where do you live in the library?

DG: Up there on the third floor in that little cubby over the portico.

BF: For now, but you'll be moving, right?

DG: We will be moving to the fifth floor

BK: Honey, we don't have a fifth floor, I don't know who told you.

DG: But come up and see me there too, let me show you around and let me show you what we do.

BF: It's exciting

DG: It is exciting, and it's really cool.

BK: Thank you David.

DG: Thanks.